

# LIPSCOMB REPORT

1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

WINTER 2014



**Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.**  
Milwaukee County  
1st District Supervisor

901 N. 9th Street, RM 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425  
(414) 278-4280  
theodore.lipscomb@  
milwaukeecountywi.gov

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Finance, Personnel & Audit  
(Co-Chair)

Judiciary, Safety & General Services  
Health and Human Needs

## APPOINTMENTS

Milwaukee County Research Park  
Corporation Board

Milwaukee Public Library  
Board of Trustees  
(Financial Secretary)

Wisconsin Counties Association  
Board of Directors

Dear Neighbor,

The Milwaukee County Board used a fair approach to deliver a 2015 Budget that improves our public parks and transit system, holds together safety net services and invests in our cultural assets.

Many of the citizens I have talked to want more than the status quo for Milwaukee County. The 2015 budget confronts our challenges by reducing our structural budget deficit and facing our growing liabilities, which include under-funded state mandates and long-deferred maintenance.

Our parks and cultural assets such as the Milwaukee County Zoo, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Villa Terrace and the Charles Allis Museum have significant capital needs. The Board took a bold step by restoring funding to the cultural institutions and by committing \$10 million in new capital funding to begin to reverse the deterioration in our parks. These investments are what our parks need now - public demand is high and interest rates are near all-time lows. Reconstruction of the Milwaukee River Parkway from Bender to Good Hope was restored in this budget, as well.

Just one year ago, it looked like a \$300 million transit contract might be handed over to an out-of-state company, but this month Milwaukee County will take formal control over Milwaukee Transit Services, Inc. – the nonprofit that has run transit for almost 40 years. The 2015 budget invests in transit, arguably our most powerful economic development tool, through increased service, special fare reductions for young workers and introduction of the free “GO” (Growing Opportunities) pass for seniors and persons with disabilities. Our system continues to have some of the highest fares among peer systems and insufficient access to suburban job opportunities. The Board's plan will bring new service to growing job centers including Brown Deer.

The Board's adopted budget takes a fair approach to our County's needs and moves our community forward with only a modest increase in the levy of 1.3% - well under the prevailing rate of inflation.

The chart in this newsletter highlights many of the important changes in the 2015 Budget and the role I played in shaping those changes. It remains my honor to represent you on the Milwaukee County Board.

Sincerely,

**Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.**  
Milwaukee County Supervisor, 1st District

If you would like to receive periodic updates on County news and events in our community, sign up for my e-newsletter at [milwaukee.gov/Lipscomb](http://milwaukee.gov/Lipscomb)

**Theodore LIPSCOMB**

Milwaukee County Supervisor, 1st District



Milwaukee County Courthouse  
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

PSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MILWAUKEE, WI  
PERMIT 500



Supervisor Lipscomb and his son enjoyed an afternoon in a Milwaukee County Park.

**Supervisor Lipscomb invites you to enjoy FREE Milwaukee County attractions!**



**Free the first Thursday of  
every month for Milwaukee  
County residents.**

Visit [www.mpm.edu](http://www.mpm.edu) for more information.



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

**Free the first Thursday  
of every month for  
all visitors.**

Visit [www.mam.org](http://www.mam.org) for more information.



**Free on Mondays  
from 9:00 a.m. - Noon.**  
Excludes major holidays.

Visit [www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org)  
for more information.



**2015 Free Days:**

1/3, 2/7, 3/7, 10/10, 11/7, 12/5,  
Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day  
& New Year's Day

Visit [www.milwaukeezoo.org](http://www.milwaukeezoo.org)  
for more information.

# 2015 BUDGET UPDATE

## BUDGET AND POLICY ISSUES

### County Executive (CEX) Abele 2015 BUDGET PROPOSAL

### County Board of Supervisors 2015 ADOPTED BUDGET

### Supervisor Lipscomb BUDGET AMENDMENTS & VOTES

 <b>ESTABROOK DAM</b>	Allocated \$1.67 million in cash for the demolition of the Estabrook Dam in contradiction to the 2009 adopted policy of repair by Milwaukee County.	Reallocated the funding from the proposed demolition project for other high priority areas of the budget, effectively maintaining the 2009 repair policy.	Authored the amendment which passed 14-3. CEX's partial veto of this measure re-created Dam Removal Project with no funding. The veto was narrowly sustained creating a conflicting policy.
 <b>PARK (WADING) POOLS</b>	Proposed closing four more wading pools in parks across the County.	Required an evaluation of cost and safety of the wading pools prior to a decision.	Sup. Lipscomb supported the amendment.
 <b>MILWAUKEE RIVER PARKWAY</b>	Included no allocation for the repavement of the Milwaukee River Parkway from Bender to Good Hope, and moved construction back to 2019 despite prior commitment to the project in 2015.	Restored this important \$3 million project and put it back on track for 2015 with a commitment of \$600,000 from the City of Glendale.	Sup. Lipscomb authored the amendment. The CEX vetoed this measure, but was overridden by the Board on a 14-4 vote.
 <b>CULTURAL SUPPORT</b>	Cut operating support and proposed new 50% private matching fund requirement for capital repair of County owned assets.	Restored the funding for operating support and funded needed capital improvements and cultural institutions.	Sup. Lipscomb supported the amendment. The CEX vetoed the entire amendment and was overridden by the Board.
 <b>TRANSIT</b>	Proposed no major route additions; several new route extensions to job centers outside the County resulted from a settlement of the Zoo Interchange lawsuit with the State of Wisconsin.	Also expanded bus service to Brown Deer and Oak Creek; created the GO Pass, which provides free bus rides for seniors and persons with disabilities beginning April 1; implemented discounted fares for youths participating in a summer jobs program.	Sup. Lipscomb co-sponsored this amendment. The CEX partially vetoed this measure to eliminate the locations of the route extensions, the GO Pass and the discounted fares for youths, but was overridden by the Board.
 <b>SHERIFF DEPUTIES</b>	CEX proposed \$1.15 million to fund service agreements with municipalities for law enforcement and security services in County parks.	Maintained the Park Patrol and Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU) in the Sheriff's Department, restored and added deputies to reduce overtime.	Sup. Lipscomb supported the restoration of deputies and voted to override the veto of the amendment to add additional deputies.
 <b>COURTHOUSE SECURITY</b>	Proposed that Courthouse security shift to a private contractor eliminating 32 positions.	Transferred the 32 security staff and management to the Office of the Sheriff.	Sup. Lipscomb authored the amendment. The CEX vetoed this measure, but was unanimously overridden by the Board.
 <b>BURIAL ASSISTANCE</b>	Proposed eliminating the General Burial Assistance Program; added \$15,000 to the Medical Examiner's budget for cremations of unclaimed bodies.	Restored the General Burial Assistance Program, which covers burial costs for low-income people who do not qualify for Medicaid, and unclaimed bodies.	Sup. Lipscomb co-sponsored the amendment to restore funding.
 <b>EMERGENCY (HOMELESS) SHELTERS</b>	Cut emergency shelter funding by \$300,000.	Restored the \$300,000 to the Shelter Task Force for emergency shelter funding for the homeless.	Sup. Lipscomb supported the amendment. The CEX vetoed this measure, but was unanimously overridden by the Board.
 <b>COUNTY EMPLOYEES</b>	Doubled monthly premiums, raised deductibles and eliminated matching funds for the employee flex spending accounts (FSA), and no raises. The net effect would be about an 8% cut to the total compensation of the average employee.	Restored and enhanced the FSA, raised premiums by a more manageable amount of 10-12%, and included no cost of living raise in 2015.	Sup. Lipscomb authored the amendment. The CEX made four partial vetoes of this measure, but was overridden by the Board on all of the healthcare components.
 <b>LAND SALE REVENUE</b>	Proposed that departments have the first option to spend land sales proceeds, then 15% of balance to the Economic Development Fund, 35% to debt service reserve and 50% to the Innovation Fund.	Adopted the current policy. 25% of net sales proceeds go to the Economic Development Fund, 25% to Innovation Fund and 50% to Contingency Account for unexpected expenses.	Sup. Lipscomb authored this amendment to maintain the current land sales policies and it was not vetoed by the County Executive.